

~~SECRET~~ Wilson Library Bulletin  
P. Eshelman, William R.

Abzug, Bella

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

7 December 1976



Mr. William R. Eshelman  
Wilson Library Bulletin  
950 University Ave.,  
Bronx, New York 10452

Dear Mr. Eshelman,

I would like to comment on the item which appears on page 217 of Wilson Library Bulletin, November 1976, under the heading of "Snooper Alert," and the letter from Chairwoman Bella S. Abzug, of the House Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, which appears on page 228 of the same issue. Both refer to an alleged incident in which an individual said to be carrying "CIA credentials" requested information on a patron's book use at a university library.

Mrs. Abzug referred this incident to the Central Intelligence Agency in September. A letter was sent in reply on October 8 from the Director of Central Intelligence to Mrs. Abzug stating that "a careful check of appropriate Central Intelligence Agency offices failed to reveal any information indicating that an Agency representative visited the library in question...nor is there any indication that such a visit would have been made to any other American library. It is clear that this individual was not an employee of this Agency. Such impersonation of a Federal officer is a criminal offense. Accordingly, we are referring your letter to the Department of Justice for action as they deem necessary."

There is no indication that this Agency has ever been involved in the type of incident described.

I trust you will set the record straight for the readers of Wilson Library Bulletin.

Sincerely,



Andrew T. Falkiewicz  
Assistant to the Director  
of Central Intelligence

STAT



Wilson Library Bulletin, November 1976

**The more things change . . .**

"Handwriting in a book by Strabo, a geographer who wrote 2,000 years ago that the Earth was a sphere, has been identified as that of Amerigo Vespucci as a young man. Printed in Venice in 1472, the volume is now in the joint science library of the Claremont Colleges. . . . [It had been] part of Herbert Hoover's 1,000-volume personal library on the history of science"—from a Claremont University Center press release.

Amerigo Vespucci  
Is a naughty youth;  
He scribbles in his Strabo—  
A practice quite uncouth.

Well, Vespucci is a crackpot,  
He denies the earth is flat;  
But who'd listen to a vandal,  
Who ruins books like that?

**. . . the worse they get**

It all started at the Bowdoin College Library in New Brunswick, Me.: In early March librarians discovered that someone had razored out illustrations from their nineteenth-century journals. All of them, as it turned out, were plates by Winslow Homer (1836-1910). But according to a report in the August 5th *HUL Notes* (Harvard Library), that was only the start.

Next to be struck was the library at Colby College in Waterville, Me.: Pages were found missing from its back issues of *Harper's Weekly*. They, too, contained plates by Homer.

"Soon outraged and mystified librarians the Northeast over were unearthing jagged gaps in their collections. . . . Cornell University, the hardest hit, reported the loss of 156 prints." And *HUL Notes* goes on to tell how its own collection was found to be vandalized.

The Association of Research Libraries sent out an urgent warning last April alerting the nation's libraries to the menace. (A full set of Homer's wood engravings for *Harper's Weekly* alone would fetch about \$6,000 on the market.)

In a possibly related development, Marianna Grotefend of the Oklahoma Co. Libraries' Main Branch has discovered that someone has been clipping out women's heads from *Vogue*, *Redbook*, and similar magazines.

*Chacun à son goût.*



Houston PLs do their share. Thanks to a \$56,000 LSCA Adult Basic Education grant, ten branches of the Houston PL now offer free tutoring for adults who are preparing for the General Educational Development exam. According to HPL the response to the program has been "overwhelming." Almost 50 community volunteers have been trained by Houston Community College to tutor in the libraries, and each branch has a long waiting list for those who want tutors.

**Snooper alert**

A letter (see p.228) from Rep. Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.), head of the House Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, should serve to alert librarians to an incident that took place recently. On receipt of the letter, *WLB* contacted Robert Fink of the subcommittee staff and learned the following:

A man walked into a university library in a U.S. city not long ago, showed a member of the library administration CIA credentials, and requested information on a patron's book use. The patron in question is an American citizen who lives in the community and is fairly well known there. The CIA man had no subpoena to back up his request and grew irate when the library official refused him access to any records.

This incident, according to Fink, would appear to be a violation not only of the CIA's mandate (restricting it to operations and intelligence-gathering in foreign countries only), but of the rights of American citizens as well. The matter was duly reported to the House subcommittee, which in turn requests that libraries having similar experiences write to them at the address given in the letter.

## Letters

Attention, librarians and citizens!

The [House] Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights is concerned with the privacy and individual rights of American citizens.

Pursuant to these responsibilities, the subcommittee has recently learned that, earlier this year, a representative of the Central Intelligence Agency made an unsolicited visit to a major university library in this country, in an attempt to determine, without subpoena, what library materials were being used by a U.S. citizen who resided in the area.

I would appreciate your bringing this situation to the attention of your readers, along with a request that if they have had knowledge of similar demands from the Central Intelligence Agency—or any other federal, state, or local intelligence or police entity—they communicate with Robert Fink of the subcommittee [staff], by calling (202) 225-3741 or writing [him at] the Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, B-349-C Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

BELLA S. ABZUG

Chairwoman  
 House Subcommittee on  
 Govt. Information and  
 Individual Rights

### DDC and all that

The testimony of Joel C. Downing in your June issue (p. 797-800), that the Dewey Decimal Classification is very much alive on a world basis, raises some interesting issues.

Mr. Downing suggests that its appeal owes much to the purely numerical, "Arabic," notation and the "decimal" division. I am inclined to agree. I believe, however, that the time is long overdue for a study of the contribution of the mnemonic elements. Briefly, it seems plain that the mnemonic elements help; but no one knows whom they help, how often, or under what conditions. It would seem to be natural

for one or more doctoral candidates to probe those questions in a scientific fashion.

As is characteristic of nearly all the discussion, Mr. Downing reports favorably that the Table for Racial, Ethnic, National Groups "has made it possible to classify many" newer subjects "to a greater degree of specificity." That is not necessarily a blessing. Most users of DDC are quite unaware of two facts: 1) subject headings were brand new when Dewey constructed his scheme; 2) Dewey paid very little attention to them, preferring a classified catalog with alphabetical access via his Relative Index.

Thanks to the subject headings Dewey ignored, we are able to provide quite specific subject access without lengthening classmarks anywhere near so often as the DDC tables make possible. How many of those long classmarks are wasteful duplication of subject subdivisions no one knows, but the percentage must be substantial. Another case for testing.

SIDNEY L. JACKSON

Kent State Univ. SLS  
 Kent, OH 44242

### Cataloging-in-publication, 1880 style

"Cataloging-in-source" was an experiment of 1958/59. "Cataloging-in-publication" is a phenomenon of the '70s and one which, with further amplification, [we] would hope to see continued. These I had thought to be accomplishments of our very modern era. It was with some surprise then, that after many years in the business, I recently encountered a book with an 1880 imprint in which is provided a sort of proto-CIP. Indeed, it goes beyond CIP in some respects, providing various entries with no card duplication required, only scissors and a little library paste.

The cataloging leaf in Lady Catherine Jackson's *Old Paris* is the first printed leaf in the book. It is of the same kind of paper as the book itself, but appears to have been tipped in by the publisher between two blank leaves preceding the title page. There is no further information elsewhere in the book to herald this ingenious aid to librarians. Henry Holt and Company probably regarded this as a mere trifle.